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ABSTRACT

This book describes the process whereby children born into a bilingual community learn to use one or two languages (Welsh and English). Twelve chapters include the following: (1) "How Do Children Acquire Language?" (e.g., theories of language development); (2) "Where Do You Find Bilingual Children?" (e.g., bilingual communities); (3) "What Is Meant by Childhood Bilingualism?" (e.g., theories of bilingual language acquisition); (4) "How Can Child Language Be Studied?" (approaches to studying child language); (5) "What Language Backgrounds Are There?" (e.g., community language use); (6) "What Opinions Do Parents Hold About Language?" (surveys of parents in North Wales); (7) "A Close Look at the Language of Young Children" (e.g., becoming a language user); (8) "How Do Children in a Bilingual Community Learn Language?" (first measures and development in the population); (9) "How Do Young Children Use Language and Do They Know What They are Doing?" (e.g., functions and language awareness); (10) "Which Parent has More Influence on the Language of the Home?" (e.g., gender influences); (11) "What Predicts a Child's Language?" (e.g., parental opinions); and (12) "How Do Young Children Become Bilingual?" (e.g., common language). Three appendixes present the Language Background Questionnaire, Language Development Questionnaire, and dictionary of common words. (Contains approximately 220 bibliographic references.) (SM)

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